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## Rome awards contract to Black River Systems Co., Utica

*by Fran Crumb, Information Directorate*

ROME, N.Y. — The Air Force Research Laboratory's Information Directorate has awarded a \$39,939 contract to Black River Systems Co. of Utica to develop technology for authenticating images.

The eight-month effort, "Detector and Extractor of Fileprints Prototype," will further research initiated by the directorate's Information and Intelligence Exploitation Division that identifies naturally occurring watermarks.

"Black River Systems engineers will be implementing a software prototype for the recovery of naturally occurring watermarks from datafiles," said Dr. Andrew J. Noga, program man-

ager. "Natural watermark is the term we are applying to cases where there are patterns in the data without the need to embed any information through the standard processes of digital watermarking."

"These patterns can be used for the purpose of data tamper protection or file identification," Noga said.

As an engineer in the directorate's Multi-Sensor Exploitation's Branch, Noga has applied for a patent on the "Detector and Extractor of Fileprints" technology. The status is now patent pending. @